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Preparation for CITES in Qatar

CITES MEETING IN DOHA

Delegates from 175 countries met in Doha, the capital of Qatar, between 13th and 25th March. They were there to represent member countries of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

CITES (pronounced sight-ees) conventions take place every two and a half years. CITES meetings are also called the Conference of all the Parties, or COP. The meeting in Doha was called COP15, because it was the 15th time the member countries have met.

CITES's job is to make decisions about the trade, or buying and selling, of certain endangered plants and animals. It decides if the trade should be allowed, restricted or banned. In the past CITES member countries have restricted the sale of things such as mahogany wood from the Amazon rainforest, elephant tusks, and rhinoceros horn.

The member countries discussed and voted on 42 different proposals, or suggestions. These included banning fishing for a type of tuna fish, allowing sales of ivory, stopping trade in polar bear skins, and restricting the catching of certain types of sharks.

CITES has a system of lists called appendices that say how different plants and animals should be treated. All trade of any plants or animals listed in Appendix 1 is banned. Appendix 2 means trade will be checked and regulated. Appendix 3 says some governments can make trade bans and others can assist them if they wish to. Moving animals or plants from one appendix to another, to give them greater or less protection, is known as either 'uplisting' or 'downlisting'.

For many people, the two most important proposals, or votes, at the Doha meeting were about Atlantic bluefin tuna

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and polar bears. Bluefin tuna are found in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. An adult can grow to a length of 4.3 metres (14 feet) and weigh as much as 453 kilograms (1,000 pounds).

It is estimated that one million bluefin tuna were caught last year. Experts believe the total population is only around 3.75 million. The numbers of bluefin tuna are thought to have decreased by as much as 80% over the past 30 years. Most bluefin tuna caught are sold in Japan. There, raw tuna fish is an important ingredient in traditional dishes such as sushi and sashimi. Japanese chefs say meat from the bluefin tuna has a better taste than other types of tuna fish.



Atlantic Bluefin tuna

Some countries proposed that bluefin tuna should be 'uplisted' to Appendix 1, so all trade of the fish would be banned. But countries that disagreed outvoted them. Japan voted against the ban. So did many other countries, such as Tunisia, where the fishing industry makes a lot of money by catching bluefin tuna and selling it to Japan. The Japanese argued there is no need for a ban as more tuna is now being farmed in specially-built sea pens.

The proposal to uplist polar bears to Appendix 1 was also defeated. Canada, where many of the world's polar bears are found, voted against it. Canadian officials explained many people living in the country's far north rely on hunting polar bears

for their livelihood. It agreed hunting should be controlled, but claimed it would be wrong to ban it.

Another suggestion defeated was adding 31 rare types of coral to Appendix 2. One of these is red coral, found in the Mediterranean Sea. This type of coral is made into expensive jewellery, which is popular in Asia. Countries that voted against putting the corals on the Appendix 2 list said many people in poorer countries would find it hard to make a living if trading in them were to be restricted.

Some experts have said the internet has meant some animals and plants are now under greater threat. This is because the internet has made things such as red coral, easier to buy and sell.

One animal that has become endangered because of the internet is the Kaiser's spotted newt. This colourful salamander, which is only found in parts of Iran, is a popular pet. The newts are expensive to buy in pet shops so people have started to sell them for lower prices on the internet. The convention voted to uplist the Kaiser's spotted newt to Appendix 1.

Other animals that members voted to uplist or protect include three species of iguana found in Mexico and several types of tree frog from Central and South America. Porbeagle sharks, which are found in temperate oceans, were also uplisted. Yet other types of shark such as the hammerhead were not.

Many conservationists were disappointed by the outcome of the meeting, particularly with the votes on Atlantic bluefin tuna and polar bears. They complained many CITES member countries are ignoring scientific evidence, especially when there is a lot of money to be made in trading an animal or plant. ■

VOLCANO ERUPTS IN ICELAND

A volcano in Iceland began to erupt on 20th March. Officials immediately ordered the evacuation of around 500 people, who live between the volcano and the sea. The volcano is in a southern part of Iceland, around 160 kilometres (100 miles) from Reykjavik, the capital city.

Iceland forms part of a mid-ocean ridge. It is one of the few places in the world where a ridge of this type rises above the sea. The ridge marks the place where two of the Earth's tectonic plates are moving apart. This means Iceland has a lot of volcanic activity, which is why it is sometimes described as 'the land of fire and ice'.

The erupting volcano is called Eyjafjallajökull (pronounced aya-vel-lo-kulth). This is also the name of a nearby glacier. The eruption is happening along a fissure, or vent, and not within a crater. The fissure is not very wide but is about 800 metres (0.5 miles) long. The last eruption happened in this area around 200 years ago.



Eyjafjallajökull eruption

Many volcanoes in Iceland are underneath thick layers of ice. They are known as subglacial volcanoes. When this type of volcano erupts, heat from the eruption immediately melts the ice above and around it. Huge amounts of water from the melted ice can then cause dangerous floods.

Volcano experts made a flight over the eruption to see what was happening. They said the fissure does not extend under the ice of the Eyjafjallajökull glacier. So on 22nd March, most people were allowed to return to their homes.

Some people are now worried about another ice-covered volcano called Katla. A huge Katla eruption occurred in 1755. When this eruption was at its most powerful, the amount of water from melting ice is estimated to have been about the same as that which flows out of four of the longest rivers in the world – the Rivers Amazon, Yangtze, Nile, and Mississippi – every second.

Experts say an eruption of Katla has usually followed when Eyjafjallajökull has erupted in the past. But at the moment no unusual activity has been recorded at the Katla volcano. Katla last erupted in 1918. ■

ISRAEL AND THE USA DISAGREE

A new disagreement has broken out between the leaders of Israel and the USA about Israeli settlements being built in the West Bank.

For many years Palestinian militant groups, based in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and Israeli forces have been fighting. The problems first began when the state of Israel was set up in 1948, in what was then called Palestine. Many Palestinians had their lands taken away from them when the new country was created.

During a war fought against several Arab countries in 1967 Israel captured an area called the West Bank. Originally the West Bank also contained the eastern part of the city of Jerusalem. Since this war, Israel has withdrawn from some areas of

the West Bank, but still occupies other parts of it. Around 100 villages or groups of houses, called settlements, have been built in occupied parts of the West Bank. These are home to about 500,000 Israelis.

Most people agree the only way peace can be achieved is for the Palestinians to be allowed to have their own independent country. But there have always been arguments about where the borders would be. The Palestinian leaders insist that all Israeli settlements in the West Bank are built on Palestinian land and should be knocked down. In the past the United Nations (UN) has ordered Israel not to build any more West Bank settlements, but it has continued to do so.

Traditionally the USA has supported Israel. American presidents have often tried to 'broker', or arrange, peace agreements between the two opposing sides. Now American leaders have also insisted that Israel must stop building settlements in the West Bank.



Joe Biden is the vice-president of the USA. Mr Biden was in Israel on 10th March. The American president, Barack Obama, had sent him there to try to get peace talks started again. Mr Biden had meetings with Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, and Mahmoud Abbas, the leader of the Palestinians in the West Bank.

NewsCAST

FALSE ALARM — A French train company caused panic when it announced a serious railway accident had occurred. An announcement appeared on its website saying an explosion had happened on a high-speed train. It said rescue workers had arrived at the scene. When worried people began telephoning the company to ask for details, its officials realised there must have been an error. Later, the company explained some of its workers had been doing a training exercise. They were asked to practise what they would do if a big accident happened. One of them had then posted the announcement on the company's real website by mistake.

During Mr Biden's visit a local official announced Israel now plans to build 1,600 settler homes close to East Jerusalem. Mr Biden was angry about the announcement, especially as it was made while he was in the country trying to arrange peace talks. Palestinian leaders say the announcement proves Israel is not really interested in making peace.

Prime Minister Netanyahu visited the USA between 21st and 24th March. He met President Obama. Earlier he had apologised for the East Jerusalem settlement announcement being made during Mr Biden's visit.

However, the day before meeting the American president Mr Netanyahu spoke to an American organisation that supports Israel. During his speech he said the whole of Jerusalem was the capital city of the Jewish people. East Jerusalem, he insisted, was not part of the West Bank and therefore Israel has a right to build new settlements there. ■

REINDEER AND BODY CLOCKS

by Dr Carol Ballard

Scientists from Norway and the UK have made a surprising discovery about reindeer. Unlike most other mammals, reindeer do not have a 'body clock'. Instead, their bodies seem to be controlled by the amount of light around them.

Most mammals, including humans, have a 'body clock'. This is called the circadian clock. It regulates our body functions in a 24-hour cycle. Although day and night times play a part in this cycle, experiments have shown the circadian clock operates on its own.

The body clock is maintained by a tiny part of the brain called the hypothalamus. Within the hypothalamus is the supra-chiasmatic nucleus (SCN). This has a natural, inbuilt 24-hour cycle.

The SCN sends signals to other parts of the brain to control the body processes that follow a regular 24-hour cycle. Waking and sleeping, body temperature, hunger, hormone levels, production of urine, and many other processes follow this cycle. All are regulated by the SCN.

The body clock can adjust to fit in with changes in the natural light cycle – our days and nights. The SCN receives signals from the eyes through the optic nerve. These signals tell the SCN how much daylight there is. The SCN then sends signals to another part of the brain, called the pineal gland, which produces a hormone called melatonin.

Melatonin is released by the pineal gland into the blood so it circulates around the body. Melatonin makes us feel sleepy. When light levels are low, the pineal gland produces more melatonin. When light levels rise, the amount of melatonin in the blood decreases. This process adjusts the body clock so that its 24-hour cycle normally follows the days and nights of the natural world.

The body clock is responsible for the feeling called jet lag that many people suffer after a long flight between time zones. It occurs because the body clock cannot adjust immediately to the new time. Instead, it may take several hours or days

to adjust. People suffering from jet lag often feel sleepy at unusual times that don't fit the day-night rhythm of the place to which they have travelled.

Although the amount of daylight may adjust our body clocks, it does not control them. Experiments have been carried out on people kept in permanent light or dark. Melatonin levels still rise and fall on a regular 24-hour cycle. This means the body clock still continues to work in its 24-hour cycle, even when there are no changes in daylight.

The reindeer the scientists studied live 500 kilometres (310 miles) north of the Arctic Circle. Because the Earth is tilted on its axis, during the summer months the Arctic region points towards the Sun. In winter, the Arctic points away from the Sun. This means days are very long in summer, and the nights are very long in winter. For 15 weeks in summer the Sun never sets, and for eight weeks in the winter it never rises.

The scientists measured melatonin levels in samples of the animals' blood. Their results showed the melatonin was not controlled by a 24-hour body clock cycle. Instead, the melatonin levels exactly followed the light and dark

of the Arctic summer and winter. Almost no melatonin was produced during the long periods of daylight. During the winter darkness, melatonin levels were at their highest. So it seems reindeer have no body clock.

The scientists believe the reindeer must have evolved not to use a body clock. They say in places where there are long periods of permanent light or dark a body clock could be a disadvantage. Instead, it may be better for body processes to be fully controlled by the natural light-dark pattern. However, which of the body processes of reindeer are affected by a lack of a body clock is not yet known.

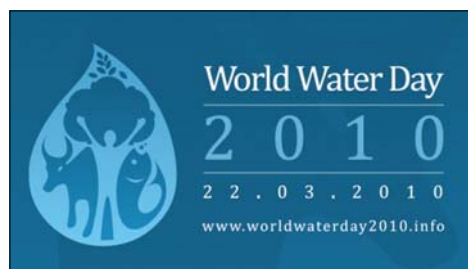
The scientists now think other animals living near the North and South Poles may have adapted to the conditions in a similar way to the reindeer.



Reindeer

WORLD WATER DAY

The United Nations (UN) World Water Day has been celebrated every year on 22nd March since 1993. Each year there is a theme. World Water Day 2010's theme was 'Clean Water for a Healthy World'.



Experts claim the quality of water in many places is getting worse. They say the reasons for this are mostly connected with human activities. These include man-made pollution, population growth and more people living in towns and cities.

For humans to stay healthy, a supply of good quality water is important. It's estimated each person needs around 35 litres (7.7 gallons) of water every day for drinking and [sanitation](#). This figure is larger if water for cooking, bathing and cleaning cooking equipment and clothes is included.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is part of the UN. One of its jobs is to provide advice to UN member countries about how their populations should stay healthy. The WHO estimates that 1.1 billion people in the world do not have a good clean water supply.

The WHO also says over two billion people have no access to proper sanitation. Each year 2.2 million people, most under five years old, die from diarrhoea. This illness is mainly caused by drinking or washing in dirty or contaminated water.

Organisers of World Water Day say everyone must understand why

water should not be wasted and why clean water supplies must be protected. The organisers said they planned to use this year's World Water Day to make politicians everywhere more aware of the importance of clean water.

As part of World Water Day special events were held in many countries. These included tree planting, lessons about recycling, and cleaning up parts of rivers. Fund raising events were also held. The money raised will be used on new water projects in parts of Africa and Asia.

One unusual event was to break the world record for the longest toilet queue. Toilet queues were organised in many different cities. The idea was for people to stand for at least ten minutes in a queue for a toilet.



The toilet queue in London, UK

Organisers said the toilet queues were arranged to remind politicians how many people in the world lack proper sanitation. For this reason some queues were held close to where politicians work. For example, in London, the capital of the UK, a large fake toilet was set up near the parliament buildings. Hundreds of people queued up next to it. Many wore masks to make them look like Gordon Brown, the prime minister of the UK. Officials from the Guinness Book of World Records were present to record some of the queues.

It is estimated that water covers about 70% of the surface of the Earth. Of this 97% is salt water.

About 90% of the Earth's fresh water is 'locked' up in the ice sheets that cover Antarctica. ■

DOT COM ANNIVERSARY

15th March marked the 25th anniversary of the registration of the first .com internet domain name. On 15th March 1985 a small computer company in the USA registered the name Symbolics.com. The second .com name – BBN.com – was registered about six weeks later.

The first .com registration went almost unnoticed. It was not until about ten years later that many people first began to use the internet. In 1997 the one-millionth internet domain name was registered. Today around 650,000 new internet sites – not all .coms – are registered every month.

Many people, especially those below the age of 20, find it hard to imagine what life was like before the internet. Nowadays it's quite usual to buy tickets, read the news, shop, check the weather, keep in contact with friends, work from home or do homework using the internet. However, much of this has only happened since the arrival of higher-speed telephone lines and mobile networks. Before this 'dial up' internet telephones lines were very slow and website pages with lots of graphics took a long time to load.

In the late 1990s many people realised the internet would change the way people shop and spend money. Some invested large amounts of money in what were called 'internet start-up' companies. Yet by 2000 what had become known as the 'com boom' turned into the 'com bust'.

Many .com companies, in which financial organisations and people had invested some of their money,

went bust – or out of business. Huge amounts of money were lost.

One example was an American internet company that planned to sell toys online. In 1999 the company was worth around US\$8 billion (£5.3 billion). Yet within two years it had gone out of business.

In the UK a company called boo.com was set up to sell fashionable clothes from its website. Around US\$135 million (£90 million) was invested in it. The bosses of the company spent most of the money building the boo.com website. But people complained the pages took too long to load and within 18 months boo.com had gone out of business.

After the .com bust many people thought the internet could never be used to build a successful business. However, a few others realised there were two main problems. One was the slow technology. The other was that people were unsure about buying things on the internet, and it would take time for them to get used to it.



Computer from 1985

Now, ten years later, this has changed. Fast broadband, mobile lines and wireless access are available and it is easy to pay for things by credit card online. Around a quarter of the world's population – about 1.7 billion people – now use the internet.

When the first .com was registered 25 years ago there was no online

advertising. Web experts predict that soon there will be more advertising on the internet than in printed newspapers and magazines. ■

THE BOMBING OF DRESDEN

A report published by historians in Germany on 17th March caused an argument. Their report was about the bombing of a German city during the Second World War (1939 – 1945). The report said many fewer civilians were killed in the bombing than some people have always claimed.

Dresden is a city in eastern Germany. Between 13th and 15th February 1945 over 1,000 planes from the British and American air forces bombed the city. The city's centre was famous for its many beautiful old buildings. During the bombing it is estimated that the British and American planes dropped nearly 4,000 tonnes of high-explosive bombs. Many were what are known as incendiary devices. These are designed to start fires. Around 90% of the centre of Dresden was totally destroyed. At the time German officials said 200,000 civilians had died in the bombings.

Soon after the bombing of Dresden some people in the UK and the USA questioned why the city was destroyed. In mid February 1945, Nazi Germany was close to defeat. It finally surrendered three months later. Many therefore thought the heavy bombing was unnecessary. Others wondered why Dresden was selected to be bombed as there were few military targets, such as tanks, soldiers, or factories making weapons in the city.

At the time military leaders explained that Dresden was bombed because several important railways passed through it. They said the

railways had to be destroyed so they could not be used to transport German military equipment.

After the end of the war some people insisted the bombing of Dresden was a war crime. They said the people responsible should be punished. Others believed Nazi officials had deliberately said the number of civilians killed in Dresden was much higher than it really was. Nazi officials had done this, they said, as a way of accusing the UK and the USA of committing atrocities.

Just after the war ended local officials in Dresden estimated that the number of people killed in the bombing was 25,000. Today most historians believe the figure is between 25,000 and 40,000. However, many people in Germany still think it was much higher than this.



Dresden city centre after the bombing

The German historians who produced the recent report made a detailed five-year study. They checked old records, court documents, and cemetery registers. They also spoke to people who were in the city at the time. The historians' report agreed with the figure of 25,000 that local officials had recorded at the end of the war.

Soon after the historians' report was announced, over 100 people demonstrated in the centre of Dresden. They insist the 25,000 figure is wrong and that the historians' report is incorrect. ■

DRUG WAR IN MEXICO

On 15th March officials in the USA warned Americans not to travel to some parts of Mexico near the American-Mexican border. The warning was given after three people with connections to American consulates in Mexico were shot and killed.

Many governments have workers representing them in other countries. The places in which they work are usually in capital cities and are called embassies. A country normally has one ambassador and other members of staff working in its embassies.

In some countries embassies also have smaller offices in other towns and cities. These are known as consulates. Often the main job of consulates is to issue visas. These give people permission to travel to the country that runs the consulate.

Many illegal drugs are being smuggled across the border from Mexico into the USA. These include cocaine, heroin and cannabis. In Mexico criminal gangs have been fighting each other to control this illegal drug trade. Many of the guns the gangs use have been illegally smuggled from the USA into Mexico.

In Mexico the police have been trying to stop the drug gang wars. Three years ago Felipe Calderón, the president of Mexico, decided to help the police by sending soldiers to the border area. Now around 50,000 soldiers are also involved in trying to stop the illegal drug trade. The USA gives money to the Mexican government to be used to fight the drug gangs.

It's estimated that 18,000 drug gang members have been killed in violent attacks in Mexico during the last three years. Many of these attacks have happened close to the border with the USA.

The main crossing point between Mexico and the USA is at the city of Ciudad Juárez. Because of the gang wars Ciudad Juárez is now believed to be one of the most dangerous cities in the world. Some of the people connected to the American consulates who were killed lived in this city.



Felipe Calderón

Recently, Mexican officials agreed to **extradite** several gang members they caught, to America. These men will be put on trial for crimes they are accused of committing in the USA. Some people think the attacks on the American consulate staff were in **retaliation** for these gang members being extradited.

Barack Obama, the president of the USA, said he was 'outraged' by the attacks on American consulate workers. He said the USA would work with the Mexican police to make sure the attackers were arrested. American citizens working in consulates near the Mexican border have been told they may send their families back to the USA if they want to. ■

RED SHIRT DEMONSTRATION

On 13th and 14th March large demonstrations were held in the centre of Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. Over 100,000 protesters gathered wearing red shirts. Their leaders said they wanted Abhisit Vejjajiva, the country's prime minister, to close

down Thailand's parliament and for new elections to be held.

Thailand's recent political problems began in 2006. Then the army deposed the country's elected prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra. Army leaders said they would run the country and draw up new rules on how Thailand would be run in the future.

Before being elected prime minister Mr Shinawatra was a very wealthy businessman. Those who dislike him claim he avoided paying large amounts of tax. They also accuse him of being disloyal to the country's king.

Since he was deposed Mr Shinawatra has been in **exile**. He now lives in Dubai. A court in Thailand has recently ordered a large part of his fortune to be confiscated.

After running the country for over a year the army allowed new elections to be held. A group of political parties that supported Mr Shinawatra won. Anti-Shinawatra protesters held demonstrations in the streets. To identify themselves they wore yellow shirts.

In 2008 yellow-shirted protesters occupied government buildings and the main airport in Bangkok. Eventually, the leaders of the political parties who won the election were forced to stand down for legal reasons. A new government was then appointed that was acceptable to the yellow shirt protesters. Mr Vejjajiva was selected as the new prime minister.

During the recent red shirt protests Prime Minister Vejjajiva and his family moved from their house into a large army camp for safety reasons.

Thailand is now dangerously divided between the 'yellow shirts' and the 'red shirts'. The yellow shirts call themselves the People's Alliance for Democracy. The red shirts are known as the United Front for Democracy

against Dictatorship. Most yellow shirt supporters are wealthier people who live in more expensive areas of the cities. The red shirts mostly come from the countryside and poorer parts of the cities.



Red shirt protestors in Bangkok, Thailand

As part of their protests many red shirts queued up to give blood to doctors and nurses taking part in the demonstration. Once they had collected around 300 litres (530 pints) of blood they poured it on the ground in front of the government buildings. More blood was thrown at the prime minister's house. The red shirts claimed the blood was a symbol of their protest. They insist they will continue with their demonstrations until new democratic elections are held. ■

BEE BAN LIFTED

Beekeepers in the USA are celebrating. On 16th March a ban on keeping honeybees in one of its cities was lifted, or cancelled.

New York City's rules and regulations banned the keeping of honeybees because officials claimed it was too **hazardous** to have beehives within the city. These regulations cover several other animals as well. They include poisonous snakes and spiders, hyenas, hornets and polar and grizzly bears.

One reason for the ban on beekeeping is that bees have stings that

can be harmful, or even life-threatening, to some people. Under the rules a person found to be keeping a beehive within the city could have been fined up to £1,350 (US\$2,000). However, it's thought the city rarely made anyone pay this fine. Some reports say many people have been keeping bees in New York City without even knowing there were any rules against it. Others are believed to have known about the rules, but decided to keep beehives anyway.

Beekeepers say honeybees can act to protect or defend their hives, but they are not aggressive. This means if their hive is threatened by something, honeybees might sting. Yet they do not attack other creatures – including people – on purpose.

Other stinging insects, such as hornets or wasps, can be aggressive. Keeping these insects will still not be allowed in the city.

Beekeepers say beehives are good for cities in many ways. Bees produce honey that people can eat. But another important job bees do is to **pollinate** flowers. This helps to keep lots of plant species alive and reproducing.



Honeybees

Environmentalists say more people in larger cities are now interested in planting gardens. People who want to make cities 'greener' are using areas of unused land to make gardens. Beekeepers in New York City say the now 'legal' honeybees will be **assets** for all these new gardens and green areas. Other American cities,

including San Francisco, have already lifted similar bans on honeybees.

People who want to keep bees in New York City will now have to register their beehives. City officials say they need this to be done in case anyone has a complaint about someone's bees. ■

ATHEISM MEETING

From 12th to 14th March, a large meeting, or convention, took place in the city of Melbourne, in Australia. Called The Rise of Atheism, the meeting was organised by two atheist organisations. Around 2,500 people attended.

Atheists believe no God or gods of any kind exist. They say science can, or in the future will be able to, explain all things in the Universe. They believe a single God or several gods did not design or create the Earth, our Solar System or any other part of the Universe. Many atheists argue the idea of gods has been made up by humans throughout history. They say this was done to help people make sense of things they didn't understand or to give them a feeling that their life on the Earth has a meaning or purpose.

Not all atheists think the same things. For example, some believe world peace cannot be achieved unless there are no religions at all. Others think religious people have a right to what they believe in, but that their religious beliefs are untrue. Some religious people have similar ideas. For instance, a Christian might say it is a Hindu person's right to believe in different gods, even though the Christian person may not believe that these gods exist.

One thing atheists at the convention said was that politics and governments in most countries are supposed to be secular. This means how a country is run, and its laws, should not have anything to do with religion. But many atheists say this does not always happen.



Atheism conference poster

Speakers gave several examples of this in Australia, as that was where the conference was held. For example, non-religious schools in Australia often have a [chaplain](#). And religious organisations do not have to pay tax. This, atheists say, shows the law and government give extra support to religious organisations.

Some people attending the meeting complained that the Australian government paid a large amount of money to hold the Catholic World Youth Day in 2009. They also said the local government in Melbourne provided money for last year's 'Parliament of the World's Religions', which was also held in the city. Yet no local government money was provided to help hold the atheists' conference.

The organisers of the conference say they want atheists to have ways to get together to discuss science and religion. One of the main speakers at the conference was Richard Dawkins, a famous scientist from the UK. He says all life on the Earth can be explained by Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Mr

Dawkins is a Fellow of the Royal Society, one of the world's oldest scientific organisations.

Although many scientists are atheists, not all are. Many say they also hold strong religious beliefs. ■

WORLD'S RICHEST

At the beginning of March *Forbes*, an American publishing company, announced its annual list of the world's richest people. *Forbes* says Carlos Slim, a Mexican billionaire, is now the richest person in the world.

Forbes is best known for its twice-monthly business magazine. Every year the magazine prints a list of those it believes are the world's richest people. This year was the first time for 16 years that the richest person was not from the USA.

Mr Slim's family was originally from Lebanon. His father was 14 years old when he emigrated to Mexico in 1902. Nine years later he opened a shop. Afterwards he began to buy property. He died when his son, Carlos, was 13 years old.

Mr Slim, who is now 70 years old, continued to grow his father's business. *Forbes* estimates his fortune to be £38.5 billion (US\$53.5 billion). Mr Slim now controls over 200 different businesses. Most are in Mexico. They include banks, airlines, printers, shops, building companies, and restaurants. He also owns the largest telephone company in Mexico and one of the biggest mobile telephone operations in Latin America.

Some business experts say it is now difficult to buy a soft drink, make a phone call, use a bank or drink a cup of coffee in Mexico without adding to Mr Slim's fortune. Some have even started to nickname Mexico 'Slimlandia'.

NewsCAST

ECO-ADVENTURE — An unusual boat has set sail from the west coast of the USA. Its crew plans to sail across the Pacific Ocean to Sydney, on the east coast of Australia. The boat has been made from thousands of plastic bottles. The crew says it wants to make people more aware of the importance of recycling or reducing plastic rubbish. The boat has been named the *Plastiki* after a famous raft called *Kon-Tiki*. This raft was built using an ancient design. It was sailed across part of the Pacific Ocean in 1947. The *Plastiki's* journey is expected to take about three months.

Some people say Mr Slim has a modest lifestyle for such a wealthy person. He lives in a six-bedroomed house in Mexico City and prefers to use a pen and paper instead of computers. Mr Slim says one of his business rules is that any reports he is given to read must be no longer than one page.

In the *Forbes* list Mr Slim came just above Bill Gates, a co-founder of the Microsoft Company. For many years Mr Gates has been top of *Forbes'* rich list. Recently, he stepped down as the boss of Microsoft to spend more time working with the charitable foundation he set up with his wife. Called The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation it gives large amounts of money to help find cures for diseases such as malaria, reduce poverty, and provide computer-related education. When wealthy people give money for good causes in this way it is called philanthropy. *Forbes* says if Mr Gates had not given so much money to his foundation he would still be wealthier than Mr Slim.

Mr Slim is also a philanthropist. He has set up three foundations that help improve health care, education and the creation of jobs in Mexico. Yet some Mexicans complain that he could afford to give much more to help poorer people in his country.



Carlos Slim

Forbes estimates there are just over 1,000 US-dollar billionaires in the world. Most are in America. China now has more billionaires – 64 – than any other country except the USA. According to the *Forbes* list the richest person in Europe, and the seventh-richest in the world, is Bernard Arnault. He is the boss of LVMH – a company that makes luxury goods. ■

DELHI'S NEW AIR FRESHENER

India has begun operating some new technology to try to solve the smog problem in one of its largest cities.

Smog is a name used for air pollution, especially in cities. It can be made up of chemical gasses, or vapours, smoke particles and dust in the air, or a mixture of these. The name comes from combining the words 'smoke' and 'fog'. The smog that occurs in many cities mostly comes from emissions from cars, or from nearby factories or power stations that burn coal. Smog can often be seen as a brownish fog or haze, in the air, above a city.

Some emissions react with sunlight when they are released into the air. The smog this produces can cause many problems. For example, it makes it harder for drivers to see, it can irritate people's eyes, and cause breathing difficulties.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is part of the United Nations. Its job is to advise governments on people's health. The WHO estimates over two million people in the world die each year because of health problems caused by air pollution. It says New Delhi, the capital of India, has one of the worst smog problems in the world.

Recently, New Delhi officials have decided to try out a new method of getting rid of the smog. As an experiment they have installed a machine designed to remove pollutants from the city's air.

An Italian company has made the large box-shaped machine. It has been put close to a very busy crossroads in the city. The machine sucks in air like a large vacuum cleaner. The air then passes through several filters inside the machine. The pollutants in the air get trapped in the filters and the 'cleaned air' is released.



Smog in New Delhi

The company that made the machine claims it can clean up to 100,000 cubic metres (3.5 million cubic feet) of polluted air every hour. Each machine, which runs on electricity, costs 25 million rupees (£367,000). Local government

officials in New Delhi say as they are trying to improve people's health the price is not a problem.

The Italian company has already installed its air-cleaning machines in cities in Italy, Spain and Switzerland. The machine in New Delhi is the first one in India. The experiment will run for three months. An environmental organisation will check on the air quality in the area close to the machine to see how effective it is. The Italian company will also check the filters to make sure pollutants are being trapped.

If the air-cleaning machine is proved to be a success others will be put up in New Delhi. If this happens the Italian company expects to sell many more of its machines to other large cities in India, which also have serious smog problems. ■

'MIRACLE' BABY ELEPHANT

Visitors to a zoo in Australia are enjoying the chance to see what many reports are calling a 'miracle' – a baby Asian elephant, named Pathi Harn.

On 1st March, a pregnant elephant at the zoo showed signs that she was ready to give birth. An elephant mother carries her developing calf inside her uterus for 22 months. The elephant that was due to give birth was the leader, or matriarch, of the zoo's elephant herd. People involved in the zoo's elephant breeding programme made preparations for the birth.

But scans taken of the calf inside the uterus showed it had rotated, or turned, into an upside-down position. When baby mammals are born, it's usually important for the head of the baby to emerge from the mother's body first. The young mammal

needs to breathe air into its lungs as soon as it is born.

Vets at the zoo said the position of the calf meant it would be almost impossible for the mother to give birth to a healthy calf. They kept monitoring the health of the unborn calf inside the mother. But after several days, they could not find any signs of life in the baby, and thought its heart had stopped beating.



Pathi Harn

In the early hours of 10th March, the mother elephant finally gave birth to the calf. And to everyone's surprise, the calf was alive. Vets from the zoo rushed to help the calf and mother. They confirmed the calf was alive, but said it might not survive. For the first days of his life, the calf had to have help standing up, lying down, and feeding. Zoo staff and vets stayed close by in case there were any emergencies.

A few days after he was born the calf seemed stronger and healthier. He was able to feed from his mother and met the other members of the elephant herd. This included another baby elephant called Luk Chai, who is eight months old. The zoo staff said Luk Chai was very curious about the newborn calf and kept trying to get close to him. The other elephants in the herd, say zookeepers, are always close by and make sure the older calf doesn't play too roughly with the new baby.

The newborn 'miracle' calf was nicknamed Mr Shuffles. This was

because at first he had some trouble walking steadily. But zoo staff members decided to hold a vote so people could help decide on a new name. The zoo said his name should have something to do with Thailand, as this is where all the elephants come from. The name that got the most votes was Pathi Harn, which in Thai means miracle. ■

UNUSUAL MEAL

A **carnivorous** plant has been discovered to have a taste for something other than meat, a new study says. Instead of trapping and eating or digesting small animals or insects, the plant feeds on droppings.

The plant the scientists studied is a type of pitcher plant. These have a deep bowl-shaped part into which small creatures such as spiders and insects can fall. The plants usually have some way of attracting insects. This can be bright colours or nectar, on which many insects feed. The bowl parts of many pitcher plants have steep sides so an insect that falls in cannot climb out. The 'lid' of the bowl is where the nectar is found.

The bowl of the plant contains a liquid that breaks down, or dissolves, the insect's body. Scientists say the plants do this to get **nutrients**. Pitcher plants are often found in soil that is low in nutrients such as nitrogen, which plants need to grow. So the nutrients pitcher plants cannot get through their roots come from the insects they digest.

Pitcher plants can grow very big. The bowl parts of some are thought to be large so they can catch small vertebrates such as mice or rats. One of these large pitcher plants is called *nepenthes rajah*. It grows only on

the island of Borneo, in South East Asia. The lid of *nepenthes rajah* contains nectar, on which tree shrews are known to feed.

Yet the plant puzzled one scientist. He said in all the years he had studied the plants he had very rarely seen the remains of a tree shrew being digested inside.

The scientist said he and his team wondered why the bowl part of the plant was big enough for tree shrews, if it almost never caught them. However, they did notice that sometimes there were tree shrew droppings in the bowls of the pitcher plants. The team decided to study the length of tree shrews and the size of the pitcher plants to see if there was any connection.

The scientists found the shape of the plant allows shrews to sit on it while they feed off the nectar on the lid. The distance from the lid to the edge of the bowl part on which they sit is exactly the same length of the shrews. This means shrews can sit comfortably on the plant while

NEWSCAST

FLYING HORSE — A horse stuck in the middle of a fast-moving river in the USA was rescued in an unusual way. Four people were riding across a river when they were swept away. All were rescued but one horse was left behind. It climbed onto a raised piece of land, or sandbar. The horse was there for five days. One rescue attempt failed because of the river's fast-flowing current. Eventually, helpers decided to use a helicopter. The horse was put in a special **harness**, and lifted into the air and off the island. The owner said the horse was very calm despite the loud noise the helicopter made.

feeding. Any of their droppings fall inside the bowl. The pitcher plant is then able to get some of the nutrients it needs – especially nitrogen – from the shrews' droppings.



Nepenthes rajah

The scientists say this is a good example of a relationship in nature where different species help each other. Each provides something the other needs. The plant, the scientists believe, has evolved so the shrew and plant give one another a way to survive. ■

CRIMEAN WAR SHIP DISCOVERED

Archaeologists in Ukraine have announced they have discovered a British ship that sank in a storm in 1854, during the Crimean War.

The Crimean War (1853 – 1856) was mainly fought in the Crimean **Peninsula** in the northern part of the Black Sea. At the time the peninsula was part of Russia. Today it is in Ukraine.

The war began over what should happen to the Ottoman Empire. It controlled some areas of south east Europe as well as large parts of the Middle East. The Empire was centred on modern-day Turkey. But in the 1850s the Ottoman Empire was becoming less powerful.

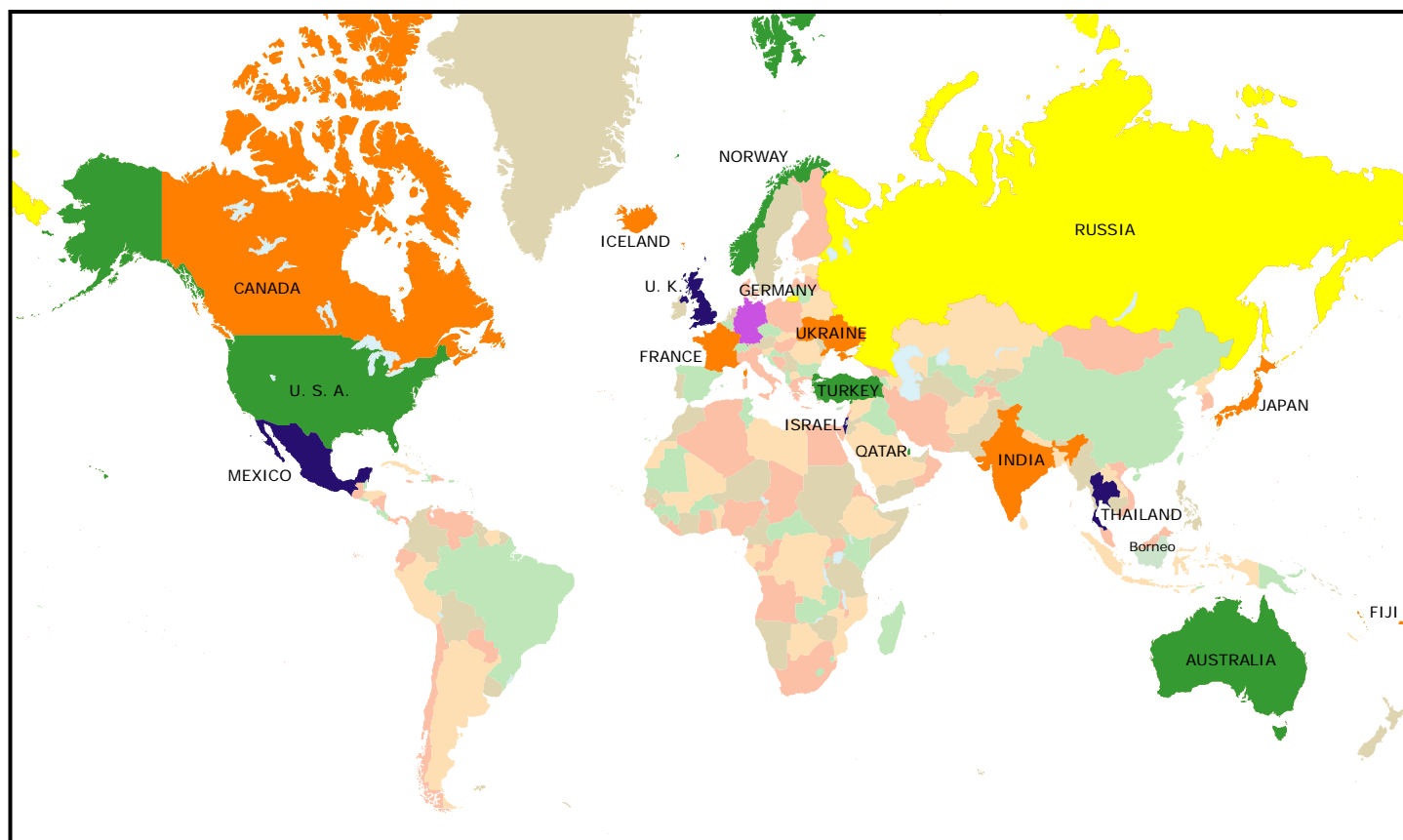
France and Britain suspected that Russia planned to take over some areas controlled by the Ottoman Turks. Both wanted to prevent this

from happening. So Britain, France and the Ottoman Empire joined together to fight Russia. In Russia the Crimean War is known as the Oriental War.

Britain, France, and the Ottoman Turks used ships to carry troops and thousands of horses to the Crimea. After a year they managed to capture the Russian port of Sevastopol, on the Black Sea. This was where Russia kept a fleet of its navy ships.

Ships from France and Britain then used the port of Sevastopol to deliver military supplies to their soldiers. In 1854 several ships near Sevastopol were badly damaged in a powerful storm that lasted for three days. One, a British supply ship called the *HMS Prince*, sank.

The *Prince* was a newly-built ship that had arrived at Sevastopol the day before the storm. It carried



extra troops and lots of thick winter clothes for the soldiers in the Crimea. 150 people were still on board the ship when the storm hit. Nearly all drowned.



For many years there were rumours that the *Prince* was carrying a large amount of gold to pay British soldiers. Because of the rumour many treasure hunters tried to find the wreck. But historians say the rumours started because of confusion about the ship's name. They say another ship, called the *Black Prince*, was used to carry gold, but none was on the *Prince*.

Some divers exploring the area found part of a plate among wreckage on the seabed of the Black Sea. After cleaning the plate, archaeologists were able to read the name 'General Screw Steam Shipping Company'. This company had owned the *Prince* before the British navy took it over. So the Ukrainian archaeologists are sure they have now discovered the wreck of the *Prince*.

The archaeologists are now hoping to raise enough money to fully explore the wreck. As well as the plate, divers have found cannon balls and medical equipment.

The Crimean War is often described as the first modern war. It was the first time railways and the telegraph were used during a war. It was also the first to be photographed and written about by a newspaper reporter watching the fighting.

The Crimean War ended in 1856 after a peace conference, called the Congress of Paris, was held in France. ■

NEW SHAKESPEARE PLAY?

A new play is to be published after it was 'lost' for almost 400 years.

The play is called *Double Falsehood*. But an expert who has studied it says a lot of the words come from a different play called *Cardenio*. This play is known as the 'lost play' written by William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616) was an English playwright, and is now one of the most famous writers in history. He wrote 37 plays and several poems.

In Shakespeare's time, plays were performed quite differently from the way in which they are today. Most experts say William Shakespeare's plays often weren't printed as a full text until after they were performed. As the [scripts](#) had to be written by hand, it would have been very time-consuming to write out whole scripts of the play for every actor. Instead the actors had what are known as cue scripts. These contained the actor's own lines, along with the last few words of the previous actor's speech. So when the actor heard the last few words of the other's speech, he knew it was his turn.

This means not very many complete scripts of plays ever existed. Experts know a play called *Cardenio* was performed by Shakespeare's theatre company in the years before his death. Yet it seems it was

never written down as a complete script and is often known as the 'lost play'.

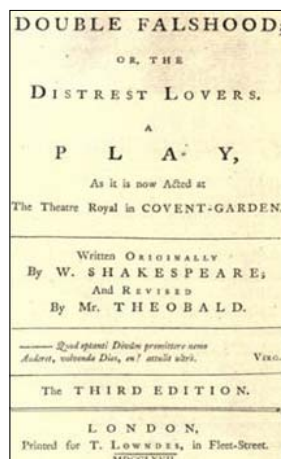
Brean Hammond claims he has now 'found' parts of it – hidden inside another one called *Double Falsehood*. This play was first published in 1728, over 100 years after Shakespeare died. The publisher was a man called Lewis Theobald. He insisted it was Shakespeare's lost play. But nobody believed him and said it was a fake.

Mr Hammond, who has spent ten years studying *Double Falsehood* is sure Theobald wasn't exactly lying – although he wasn't quite telling the truth either. Mr Hammond now believes Shakespeare wrote parts of the lost play, and other bits were written by John Fletcher. This person is known to have worked on some plays with Shakespeare. Fletcher took over from Shakespeare as the playwright for his theatre company.

Mr Hammond says Theobald also probably wrote or changed parts of the play. This was quite commonly done so older plays would be interesting to audiences a long time after the play was originally written. Mr Hammond believes that different styles of phrases and words used in

Double Falsehood show the play contains the work of three different people – Shakespeare, Fletcher and Theobald.

The play will be now be published in a book along with notes on which parts might be written by Shakespeare, and which are likely to be [adaptations](#) of his words by one of the others. ■



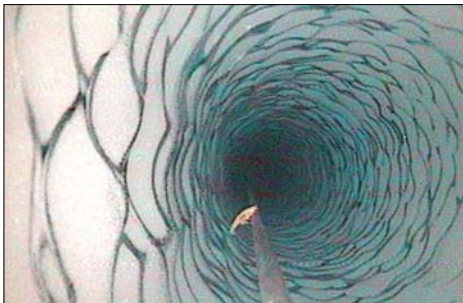
Original 1728 poster for *Double Falsehood*

ANTARCTIC DISCOVERY

A team of scientists from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has made a surprising discovery in the sea, underneath very thick Antarctic ice.

The scientists are trying to find out how living things survive in places on the Earth where difficult conditions make any form of life unlikely. Most living things need several different conditions to **thrive**. For example, humans need food, water, warmth and light. The Earth is able to provide us with all these life-supporting conditions.

These conditions are related to how far the Earth is from the Sun. The Earth's distance from the Sun means there is enough light and warmth for many animals and plants to survive. Yet planets closer to the Sun thought to be too hot to support the kind of life found on Earth and those further away are far too cold.



Shrimp-like creature in hole drilled through the ice

The types and mixture of gasses in the Earth's atmosphere also supports life. Not all other planets in our Solar System have atmospheres. Those that do don't have the right gasses – such as oxygen – for humans and most other living things to survive.

Scientists at NASA are interested in finding living things on Earth in places where the conditions are poor for supporting life. For instance, some simple organisms live in places where there is almost no light

NewsCAST

EXPENSIVE MEAL — A dog got its owners into trouble in the USA when they decided to visit a jewellery shop. While a person who worked in the shop was talking to the dog's owners, he dropped something on the floor. The dog immediately snapped it up and swallowed it. Yet it wasn't a piece of food that was dropped, but a diamond worth more than £13,350 (US\$20,000). The dog's owners had to collect and examine the dog's droppings for three days. Eventually they found the diamond and were able to return it to the jewellery shop.

at all or where sources of food are rare. Some organisms even manage to feed on unusual things to survive.

The scientists believe by studying how living things survive in difficult conditions on the Earth, they could discover ways in which other planets might support life.

This is why they decided to look underneath the Antarctic ice. To see if any organisms survive in this very cold, dark place, they drilled a hole 20 centimetres (eight inches) in diameter through 186 metres (610 feet) of ice to reach the seawater below. The scientists lowered a camera down through the hole and into the seawater.

The scientists thought they might find some simple microscopic organisms living in these conditions. So they were surprised to see a 7.5 centimetre (three inch) long shrimp-like creature swimming around in the hole and holding on to the camera's cable. They were amazed such a complex form of life survived in this place.

Some scientists wondered if the creature could have swum to the area from the open sea, where conditions

are better for living things. But others think this is unlikely, as the hole was almost 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) away from the open sea.

The scientists say they are still not sure how the shrimp-like creature survives in such difficult conditions. For example, they do not know what it feeds on. Yet its existence shows that some complex living things are able to live in very cold places where there is little or no light. These conditions, the scientists say, could be similar to those on Europa, one of Jupiter's many moons.

CYCLONES IN THE PACIFIC

At the beginning of March two strong tropical storms began forming in the south west part of the Pacific Ocean. Within a short time weather experts said they had become cyclones. The two powerful storms were given the names Tomas and Ului.

Cyclones are similar to typhoons and hurricanes. The name 'typhoon' is used for these storms when they happen in the north west Pacific Ocean. In the Indian Ocean and south west Pacific they are called 'cyclones' and in the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Oceans 'hurricanes'.

Cyclone Tomas struck parts of Fiji on 14th and 15th March. Fiji is an island nation in the South Pacific. The country is a group, or archipelago, of around 320 islands. Of the 110 inhabited islands most people live on the two largest ones, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

The cyclone first hit some of the smaller islands and then struck the northern part of Vanua Levu. Around 18,000 people took shelter in evacuation centres. Many houses were blown away or badly damaged. Trees were uprooted. Some roads

were blocked after huge waves caused flooding near the coast. One person died in the storm. Communications with many smaller islands were completely cut off.

Wind speeds of 205 kilometres (130 miles) per hour were recorded during the storm. Officials said it was the worst cyclone to hit Fiji for 20 years. Frank Bainimarama, Fiji's military chief and prime minister, said the damage caused by the cyclone was 'overwhelming'.

Around 150,000 people have been affected by damage caused by the cyclone. The storm also badly damaged large areas of the country's sugar crops. This could be a problem as sugar production is one Fiji's main ways of making money.

The governments of Australia and New Zealand agreed to send help. Soon after the storm passed, military planes from both countries arrived carrying emergency shelters and other supplies.



Satellite picture of cyclones Ului and Tomas over the Solomon Islands and Fiji

Ului, the other cyclone, struck the Solomon Islands and then hit the coast of Queensland, in northern Australia, on 21st March. Before it arrived, those living in the storm's path were evacuated to safer places.

The cyclone caused flooding and powerful waves along the coast. Some houses lost their roofs and others are now thought to be unsafe to live in. Around 50,000 people had

their electricity cut off. The following day many schools were closed while people worked to clear fallen trees.

After striking Fiji and northern Australia the two cyclones began to weaken – Tomas as it moved out into the Pacific Ocean, and Ului as it travelled inland. ■

NEW TREATMENT FOR EPILEPSY?

Scientists say a new form of treatment could help people who have epilepsy. The treatment involves implanting electrodes into the brain.

Epilepsy is a condition that affects the brain. The brain contains many very complex nerve systems that control how our bodies move and work. Our brains are always receiving signals from our environment, and from the different parts of our body – and sending signals too. These signals travel through all the nerve systems as electrical impulses. This is called electrochemical activity, and it's always going on in the brain.

Epilepsy changes the normal electrochemical activity in the brain. It can make the signals suddenly go off at a much faster rate than normal. This causes a person to have what is known as a seizure.

A seizure can take many different forms. It can affect a person's movement, consciousness, behaviour, and the sensations he or she feels. Some seizures affect only certain parts of the brain. These are called partial seizures. A person suffering a partial seizure usually stays conscious. But they may have symptoms such as numbness, or seem to be not aware of what is happening around them for several seconds.

Other seizures affect the whole brain. These cause a person to lose consciousness. They may fall over

and often their muscles will twitch violently. In some cases the person's muscles may become very rigid or stiff. If a person repeatedly has seizures, this is known as epilepsy.

Epilepsy can be treated with special medicines. These can stop seizures from happening. Yet for some people, these medicines don't work or don't completely stop seizures. This was true of the 110 people who agreed to take part in trying out the new treatment.

The people had devices implanted into their brains. The devices sent electrical impulses to different parts of the brain. The scientists recorded how many seizures each person had over the next year. 41% of the people who had the implant had fewer seizures than they did before.

Doctors say that as the new treatment involves surgery to the brain, it can cause some problems. They believe more trials will have to be done before the brain implant method is used as a common treatment for epilepsy. However, the doctors say, they are pleased that in future it may be possible to help people who have epilepsy that can't be treated with medicines. ■

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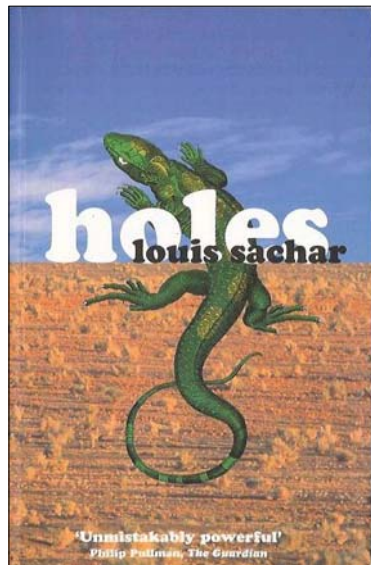
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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



Stanley Yelnats is a kid who's always been in the wrong place at the wrong time, so he wasn't too surprised when he was arrested for a crime he didn't commit.

Given the choice of going to jail or to the boy's correctional facility Camp Green Lake, in Texas, in the USA, Stanley chooses the camp. After all, he's never been to a summer camp before, because his family couldn't afford it. And he thinks Camp

Green Lake has to be the better choice...

...except for a few facts the judge didn't mention, such as how Camp Green Lake no longer has a lake, because the water dried up years ago – and thus it is also no longer green. Instead, it's in the hottest, driest and nastiest part of Texas. The camp doesn't even need a fence or guard towers – the boys can run away and die in the desert of sun-stroke and thirst anytime they want to. The nearest source of water outside the camp is hundreds of miles away.

I really like how the author set the stage for this story. At first I wasn't sure if Stanley was innocent of the crime of which he was convicted (shoe theft), but I was certain that Stanley did not belong in that camp. The other boys are there for much worse crimes and have adopted nicknames such as "Armpit", "Zero", and "Barf Bag".

And the camp isn't very safe. Barf Bag actually never makes an appearance in the story, because after he spent time in the infirmary due to stepping on a rattle snake, the staff discovered he did it on purpose and decided not to bring him back to camp! And there are other dangers aside from the regular hard labour in the camp, such as poisonous insects, dehydration, and heat exhaustion, all of which Stanley must endure to survive his 18-month sentence.

Inheriting Barf Bag's bed and sleeping area, Stanley quickly adapts to the culture and society at camp. He

wisely accepts his nickname, Caveman, as a means to an end – to become accepted by the other boys.

Every day the boys have one task to perform, and one task only: to dig a hole 5 feet deep and 5 feet in diameter through the hard sun-baked crusty clay of the old lake bed. Such work builds character, or so the Warden says – but Stanley suspects there is another deeper purpose behind the digging. He thinks that the Warden is secretly using the boys to dig for fossils...or maybe treasure?

Stanley also has a lot of problems to deal with, one being a generations-old curse that has plagued all the men of his family since they first migrated to America from Latvia. Curses and history play an important role in this story. This is especially true in the tale of Stanley's great-great grandfather and his run-in with the most feared and respected outlaw of his time, Kiss-ing Kate Barlow, more than 100 years before Stanley arrives at the camp. I really enjoyed reading how the tragic events in Kate's life led her to make her transformation from school teacher to outlaw. In my opinion, she's a hero.

The most fascinating aspect of this book is how the author blends Stanley's story with things from the past, which adds a deep sense of how events in history lead to those in the present. Each chapter in the book builds on the next, even if a story takes place more than a hundred years in the past, in Latvia or Texas, or in present time.

I would recommend this great book and its gripping sequel, *Small Steps*, for readers aged 11 and up.

Holes by Louis Sachar. Yearling Books

Reviewed by **Chris Tarn**

WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

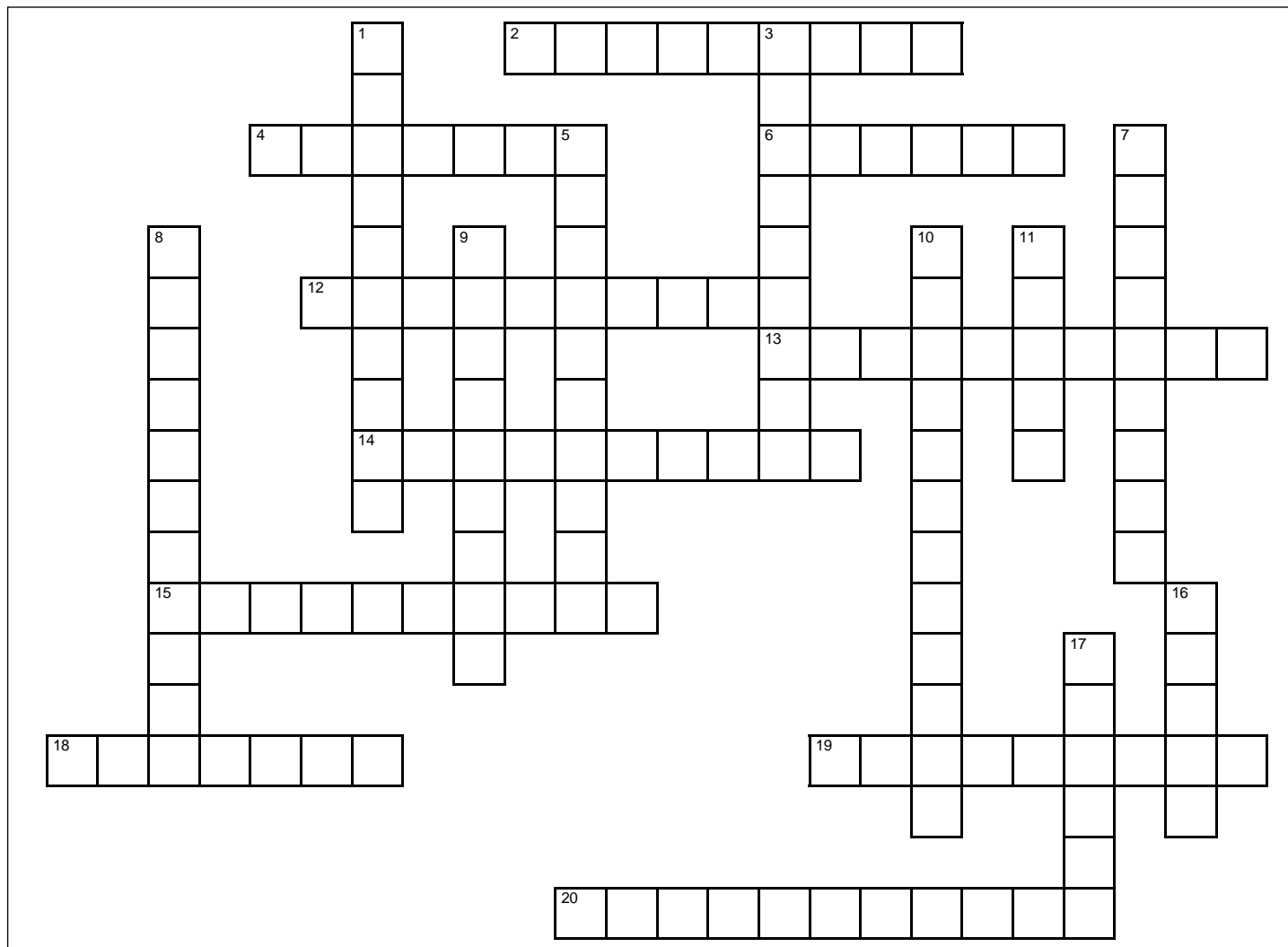
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

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GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 2 Noun (Plural)** Substances that provide nourishment needed for life and growth
- 4 Noun** A piece of equipment, with belts and straps, used to hold in place or control a person, object or animal
- 6 Verb** To grow stronger; succeed
- 12 Noun** The way in which we support our needs such as food, shelter, and human rights
- 13 Adjective** Designed to cause fires
- 14 Noun (Plural)** Points at which electric currents enter or leave something
- 15 Verb** Placing a device, organ or cells into the body in a medical operation
- 18 Noun** A deep narrow crack in rock or the earth
- 19 Noun** A long, narrow piece of land that sticks out into the sea
- 20 Adjective** Meat-eating

Down

- 1 Noun (Plural)** Terrible crimes
- 3 Verb** To make someone return to a country in which he or she has been accused of doing something illegal, to be put on trial
- 5 Noun** The systems for taking waste products and dirty water away from buildings to protect people's health
- 7 Adjective** Lasting forever
- 8 Noun (Plural)** Works such as books, plays or films that are rewritten versions of other books, plays or films
- 9 Adjective** Describes a climate that is neither very hot nor very cold
- 10 Adjective** Very great; strong; overpowering
- 11 Noun** A long narrow line of hills or mountains
- 16 Noun** Being forced to live away from your own country
- 17 Noun (Plural)** Things that are valuable or have a beneficial use

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